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Minnesota Power Earns EEI Emergency Assistance Award for Efforts to Restore Service in Manitoba After Snowstorm

TUCSON, Ariz. (January 8, 2020) — The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) on Wednesday presented Minnesota Power with the EEI “Emergency Assistance Award” for its response efforts after a snowstorm hit Manitoba in October.

The Emergency Assistance Award is given to select EEI member companies to recognize their outstanding efforts to assist other electric companies with power restoration after service has been disrupted by severe weather conditions or other major incidents. The winners are chosen by a panel of judges following an international nomination process. Minnesota Power received the award during EEI’s Winter Board and Chief Executives Meeting in Tucson, Ariz.

In October, a slow-moving snowstorm hit Manitoba, bringing heavy wet snow and high winds. Minnesota Power sent 10 lineworkers and four support personnel, including two crew members from Superior Water Light and Power, more than 500 miles to help restore service to customers over the course of 11 days.

“I applaud Minnesota Power for responding to the request for mutual assistance and for helping to restore service safely and quickly to those impacted by this severe storm,” said EEI President Tom Kuhn. “Mutual assistance is a hallmark of the electric power industry, and it is critical to helping restore power to customers following significant events.”

ALLETE President Bethany Owen said Minnesota Power and Superior Water Light and Power have earned a reputation in the United States and in Canada as trusted and valued mutual aid partners. Both companies are operating divisions of ALLETE.

“We’re honored to be recognized by our industry colleagues, and proud to lend a hand whether it’s close to home or hundreds of miles away,” Owen said. “Our partners welcome the expertise and dedication of our crews who embrace the hard work, challenging conditions and long hours required to restore the safe and reliable power that ensures security, comfort and quality of life for us all. We’re happy to have been able to help our friends at Manitoba Hydro.”

PHOTO CAPTION

Al Hodnik, ALLETE chairman and CEO (left), was in Tucson to receive the Emergency Assistance Award from the Edison Electric Institute. With him is Tom Kuhn, EEI president.

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EEI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for more than 220 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities across the United States. In addition to our U.S. members, EEI has more than 65 international electric companies, with operations in more than 90 countries, as International Members, and hundreds of industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 15 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.